JOE PRUETT · MARCELO FRUSIN

VIKING MOON

image

1 OF 5 SEP

M. FRUSIN 2025

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VIKING MOON™

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WHY DO WE PAUSE? DO THEY NO LONGER PURSUE US?

NO...THEY ARE NEAR...IN THE SHADOWS. I CAN SENSE THEM.

HEAR ME, ***SKRAELINGS!*** I AM ***ULF***, CHIEFTAIN OF THIS TRIBE. WE DO NOT SEEK BATTLE, BUT WE DO NOT FEAR IT. IF IT IS ***BLOOD*** YOU SEEK, IT WILL BE YOURS UPON MY SWORD!

AAIIEE!

THOUGH WE MAY DIE THIS DAY, ***SKARDE***, I PROMISE YOU THAT THE BLOOD OF THESE SAVAGES WILL FLOW AS THE OCEAN'S WATERS, ***ENDLESS*** AND ***DEEP***.

STAY NEAR ME. DO NOT ALLOW THEM TO SEPARATE US.

COME BE THE ***FIRST*** TO DIE!

CHUK

AAAHH!

YOU HAVE SENT YOUR FOE TO WHATEVER HELL WOULD TAKE THESE SAVAGES...
...I SHALL ASSURE HE DOES NOT MAKE THE JOURNEY ALONE!
THEY COME FROM ALL SIDES NOW. BE ON GUARD.

ARRGH!

SKARDE!

COME AT ME THEN. ONE AT A TIME OR ALL AT ONCE, I CARE NOT. YOUR MATE WILL MOURN YOU THIS NIGHT.

AWHOOOOOO

COWARDS! MY BLADE STILL THIRSTS!

THEY HAD ME VASTLY OUTNUMBERED. WHY WOULD THEY NOT PRESS THEIR ADVANTAGE?

PERHAPS IT IS NOT ME THAT THEY FEAR?

AWHOOOOOO

COME OUT OF THE SHADOWS SO THAT I MIGHT SEE YOU. I PREFER TO LOOK INTO THE EYES OF A MAN BEFORE I KILL HIM.

GRRROOWL

DEMONS.

THEN THE STORIES WERE TRUE. I SHOULD HAVE NEVER BROUGHT MY PEOPLE TO THIS HAUNTED LAND.

ONE DAY EARLIER...

SO THIS IS *VINLAND*? THE WORDS USED TO DESCRIBE ITS BEAUTY FAIL DISMALLY IN THEIR TASK. NEVER HAVE I SEEN A MORE *SPLENDID* LAND.

THOUGH IT IS WHAT LIES HIDDEN AND UNSEEN WITHIN ITS SHADOWS THAT WE MUST BE EVER VIGILANT AND WARY OF, IF WE ARE TO SUCCEED WHERE OTHERS BEFORE US HAVE FAILED.

FRODE, YOU ARE SURE OF THIS LOCATION?

YES, MY LORD *ULF*. ERIKSON'S MAPS ARE AS PRECISE AS THEY ARE ACCURATE.

THEN LET US MOVE CLOSER TO THE SHORE AND CHOOSE A PLACE TO LAND. I AM SURE ALL ABOARD WOULD LIKE TO FEEL THE GROUND BENEATH THEM ONCE MORE.

IS IT TRUE, FATHER? ARE WE SOON TO BE FREE OF THIS ACCURSED VESSEL?

FORGIVE YOUR DAUGHTER'S YOUTHFUL IMPATIENCE, MY HUSBAND, THOUGH I WILL ECHO HER DESIRE TO LEAVE THIS SHIP. IT HAS BEEN A LONG JOURNEY, AND I AM EAGER TO SEE ITS END.

AS ARE WE ALL, *YRSA*.

ONE JOURNEY ENDS, AND ANOTHER BEGINS. ASTRID, WE WILL MAKE THIS LAND OUR OWN. WE WILL PROSPER HERE. WE WILL GROW OLD TOGETHER HERE.

FOR US. FOR OUR PEOPLE. YOU WILL SEE.

MY LORD, IF YOU WOULD. THE CREW AWAITS YOUR DECISION.

THE CREW CAN WAIT A FEW MOMENTS MORE. HE IS ALSO A HUSBAND AND FATHER. LEAVE HIM BE.

NO NEED TO SCOLD THE OLD MAN, TRYGVE. HE MAY BE IRRITABLE, BUT HE IS RIGHT.

THERE! TAKE US TO SHORE ALONG THAT STRETCH OF BEACH. WE SHALL MAKE CAMP THERE THIS DAY.

COME ASHORE, YOU DOGS! THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE IF YOU DESIRE TO SLEEP UPON THE LAND THIS NIGHT!

TELL THE MEN TO BRING THE AXES AND GATHER LUMBER FROM THE NEARBY FOREST. THIS IS WHERE WE SHALL BUILD.

GUNNER. SKARDE. YOU SHALL BE MY FEET AND EYES.

HEAD INTO THIS WILDERNESS AS FAR AS YOUR LEGS WILL TAKE YOU. RETURN ON THE MORROW AND TELL ME ALL THAT YOU HAVE SEEN.

THE MEN WORK HARD AND WITH HASTE, BUT IT SEEMS LIKE ALL SHALL SLEEP UPON THE DRAGON-SHIP, AT LEAST FOR ONE FINAL NIGHT, WHICH IS THE WISE CHOICE IN ANY REGARD.

UNTIL GUNNER AND SKARDE RETURN FROM THEIR SCOUTING MISSION, I DO NOT WANT TO PLACE LIVES AT RISK...ESPECIALLY YOURS AND YRSA'S.

YOU ARE RIGHT TO FEAR THE NATIVES OF THIS LAND - THE ***SKRAELINGS*** - IF THE TALES ARE TRUE. IT IS SAID THEY NUMBER IN THE THOUSANDS. I WILL FEEL MUCH SAFER WHEN OUR DEFENSES ARE COMPLETE.

AS WILL I... WAIT. WHERE IS ***YRSA***?

IF THIS LAND IS AS BEAUTIFUL AS YOU, MY LITTLE FRIENDS, I BELIEVE I WILL LIKE IT HERE. WHERE I COME FROM, THE LAND IS COLD AND HARSH, NOT GREEN AND LUSH AS IT SEEMS HERE.

SNAAP

HELLO?

IS ANYONE THERE?

YRSA!

IF YOU HEAR MY VOICE, RETURN TO CAMP!

MY MOTHER CALLS TO ME, SO I MUST GO.

I SUSPECT THAT YOU ARE NOTHING MORE THAN A SMALL ANIMAL, BUT, REGARDLESS OF WHAT YOU MAY BE, KNOW THAT I MEAN YOU NO HARM.

I HAD THOUGHT THE BUILDING OF THESE BÚÒY WOULD TAKE SEVERAL DAYS. IT APPEARS THAT THEY MAY BE COMPLETED BEFORE DAY'S END.

HOW DID YOU MANAGE SUCH A FEAT?

YOU CAN THANK THE ***GIANT*** FOR OUR SPEED, MY LORD ULF. ***NJAL*** DOES THE WORK OF TWO MEN AND LIFTS THE WEIGHT OF THREE.

SO I SEE. FORTUNE FAVORED US WHEN HE ACCEPTED OUR INVITATION TO JOIN OUR VOYAGE.

AH, GUNNER AND SKARDE HAVE RETURNED. WHAT ***NEWS*** HAVE YOU?

WE HAVE FOUND WHAT YOU ***SOUGHT***, MY LORD. YOU MUST RETURN WITH US TO SEE IT WITH YOUR ***OWN*** EYES.

HOW MUCH FURTHER TO THAT WHICH YOU WOULD HAVE ME SEE, SKARDE? DAYLIGHT WILL FADE SOON, AND IT IS BEST IF WE RETURN TO CAMP BEFORE IT DOES SO.

WE SHOULD BE NEAR. JUST BEYOND THE NEXT BEND OF THE RIVER.

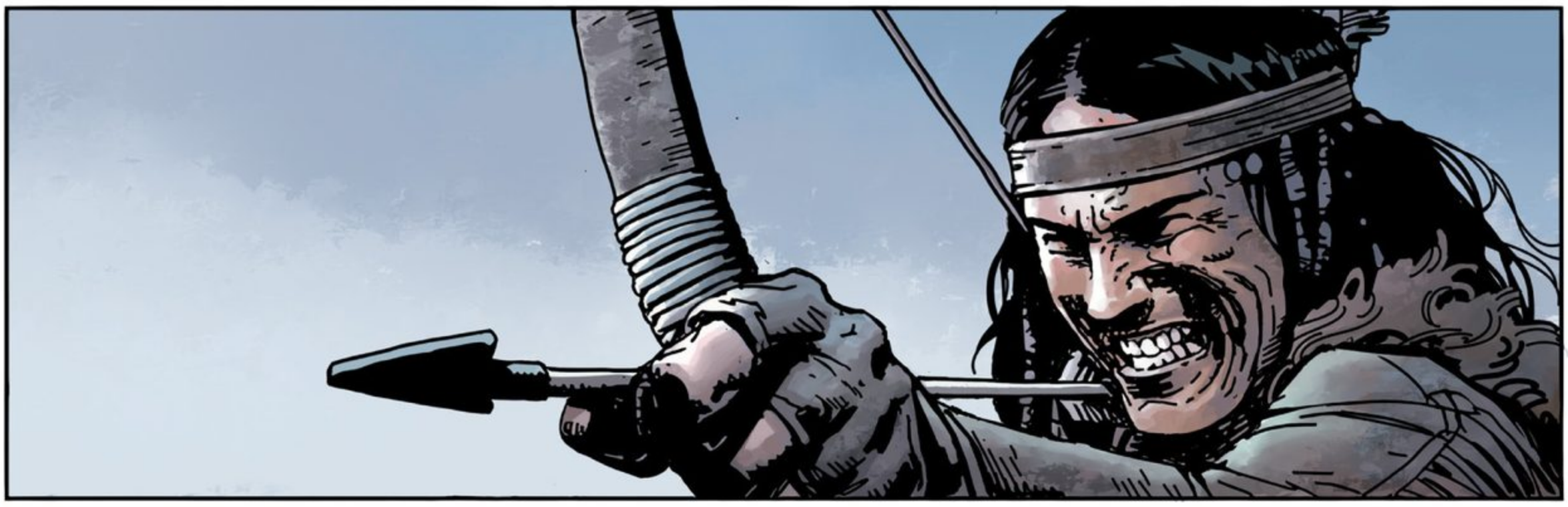
MY LORD! WE ARE NOT ALONE!

SKRAELINGS!

STAND YOUR GROUND. DON'T DO ANYTHING THAT THEY WOULD PERCEIVE TO BE A THREAT.

STEADY. HOLD YOUR BOW, GUNNER.

I HAVE THEM IN SIGHT. WHAT IS YOUR COMMAND?



HE *MEANS* TO FIRE HIS BOW, MY LORD!
DON'T BE A FOOL. HE IS MORE FRIGHTENED OF US THAN WE ARE OF HIM.

YOU FOOL! DO YOU *KNOW* WHAT YOU HAVE *DONE*?!

LOWER YOUR BOW. HE IS BEYOND US NOW.

THE DAMAGE YOU HAVE WROUGHT CANNOT BE UNDONE. WE SHALL HAVE NO PEACE UPON THESE LANDS.

I WAS A FOOL TO HOPE FOR OTHERWISE.

WHAT WOULD A VIKING KNOW OF PEACE? IT IS NOT OUR WAY.

LET US CONTINUE. TAKE ME TO ***THORFINN KARLSEFNI'S SETTLEMENT*** SO THAT I CAN SEE THIS HORROR FOR MYSELF.

WE MUST MAKE HASTE. SHOW ME WHAT NEEDS TO BE SEEN SO WE CAN RETREAT BACK TO OUR PEOPLE.

THE SKRAELING WILL ALERT HIS TRIBE, AND THEY WILL RETURN IN GREATER NUMBERS THAN US THREE.

WHAT ARE THESE ***STRANGE*** MARKINGS UPON THE DOORS? THEY APPEAR TO BE THAT OF A WILD BEAST SEEKING ENTRY WITHIN THIS HALL. I HAVE NEVER HEARD OF SUCH A THING.

A QUESTION WE ALSO ASKED OURSELVES, MY LORD.

THIS IS UNSETTLING.

THERE WAS A BATTLE HERE. ONE WHERE OUR OWN WERE NOT THE VICTORS.

THESE BODIES WERE NOT ONLY BROKEN... BUT ***RIPPED*** OPEN AND ***SCATTERED*** ABOUT. THIS WAS NOT THE WORK OF THE SKRAELINGS. THIS WAS SOMETHING...ELSE.

I KNOW NOT WHAT MANNER OF BEAST COULD BRING SUCH HORROR, NOR DO I WANT TO MEET IT.

THIS IS A PLACE OF ***DEATH***, BUT COULD STILL PROVE TO BE A HAVEN FOR OUR PEOPLE.

WE NO LONGER HAVE THE LUXURY OF FORTIFYING THE BEACH LANDING. WE MUST BRING OUR PEOPLE HERE.

WE HAVE LINGERED FOR TOO LONG.

DARKNESS APPROACHES QUICKLY AND WE ARE STILL A DISTANCE FROM OUR CAMP. WE MUST LEAVE AT ONCE.

WE ARE TOO LATE. WE HAVE BEEN FOUND.

RUN!

NOW...

DEMONS.

JOE PRUETT MARCELO FRUSIN

VIKING MOON™

M. FRUSIN 2025

NEXT ISSUE!

JOE SPEAKS!

Welcome!

Marcelo and I are extremely happy that you have chosen to spend your hard-earned money on our little Vikings versus Werewolves saga. We hope you enjoy reading it as we have enjoyed creating it.

Why Vikings? Marcelo and I have both always been fascinated by history of this fierce race.

Why Werewolves? We both grew up on werewolf stories and movies, creating a life-long passion and love for the creatures and myths. I wrote a *Werewolf by Night* short story for Marvel's *Tomb of Terror* comic back in 2010 and have been dying to write another werewolf story ever since.

Vikings and Werewolves! Like a *Reese's Peanut Butter Cup*, they go great together!

It's widely accepted now that the the Vikings (led by Leif Erikson) are thought to be the first Europeans to set ashore in North America (present-day Newfoundland, Canada). The historical site of *L'Anse aux Meadows* is speculated to be of Norse origin, giving physical proof and credence to the legends. Leif, himself, did not stay long, returning to Greenland. Leif's brother Thorvald Eiriksson also led an expedition to "Vinland" only to die a tragic death shortly upon arriving. Around 1004, Thorfinn Karlsefni attempted to establish a Norse settlement, but after a few years of struggles and skirmishes it was abandoned.

So, this is the historical narrative that we are following. Years after Thorfinn Karlsefni's failed attempt to establish a Norse settlement, our group of Vikings have decided to once again make the journey to this land of riches, with the intent of succeeding where others before them have failed.

"Why did the Vikings abandon North America so quickly?" Theories suggest that it was the native population, the "Skraelings" (Screaming People). Probably. The Vikings were severely outnumbered and in constant danger. Sounds like a reasonable explanation. But what if it was something more?

Most Native American tales have stories of skinwalkers, humans who can shapeshift into animals. The legends are not necessarily limited to wolves, but other animals as well, but, for our story, we're focusing on the werewolf legend. What if these wolf skinwalkers also acted as protectors of the native population and were instrumental in repelling these Norse invaders?

Sounds like a cool story. Let's us know if you agree.

Joe Pruett
somewhere outside Atlanta, GA
August 2025

Plug time!

VOICES IN MY HEAD is a one-shot I published through Image Comics last OCT. It featured four new and original short stories (with at least one story soon to be spinning off into its own series), all written by me and illustrated by Andrew Robinson, Michael Gaydos, Phil Hester and Juan Doe. It should still be available for reorder, so check with your local comic shop for a copy or ask them to order one for you. I'm pretty proud of the comic and think you'll enjoy it, too. You can't miss the beautiful BRIAN BOLLAND cover!

THE CREATORS

JOE PRUETT

writer

Joe Pruett is an Eisner Award-winning comic book editor and writer. Best known as the editor of the multi-Eisner, Harvey and Eagle Award-nominated anthology *Negative Burn*, he has also written for virtually every major comic publisher, including Image, Vertigo, IDW, DC, AfterShock, Caliber and Marvel, where he wrote for *X-Men Unlimited*, *Cable*, *Domino*, *Wolverine* and *Magneto Rex*. He also served as Publisher at Desperado Publshing and AfterShock Comics, as well as Editor-in-Chief of Ninth Circle Comics, currently being published by Image Comics. He is a past winner of the *National Institute of Health Gold Medal Award* and the *Gary Reed Independent Creator of the Year Award*.

MARCELO FRUSIN

artist / colorist

Marcelo Frusin is an Argentinian comic artist and illustrator, with work published in Europe, South America and the United States. He is best known for his critically acclaimed run as the artist of *Hellblazer* and *Loveless*, both for for Vertigo/DC Comics. His work can also be seen in other Vertigo titles, such as *Flinch*, *Weird Western Tales, Weird War Tales* and *Transmetropolitan*; *X-Men* and *Wolverine* for Marvel Comics; KICK-ASS and KICK-ASS VS HIT-GIRL, published by Image Comics, and on the science-fiction/horror comic *Sacrament* for AWA Studios. He also co-created, with French writer Richard Marazano, the series *L'Expedition*, for Dargaud of France.

JOE MARTIN

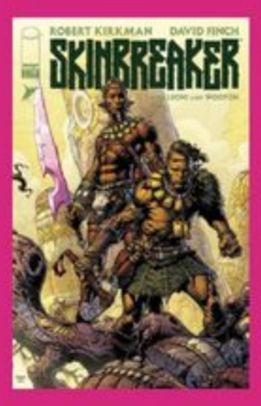
letterer

Joe Martin has done a little bit of everything in the comic book and gaming industry. At Caliber Comics, he was a writer (*Seeker*, *Legendlore*), an editor, a letterer, a designer and a game developer (helping to build a collectible card game based on Todd McFarlane's *Spawn* universe). He also wrote and edited RPG game supplements and illustrated maps, in addition to acting as managing editor for Privateer Press.

SEPTEMBER AT IMAGE

Brian K. Vaughan and Niko Henrichon have already stunned together with *The Pride of Baghdad* in 2006, and have been working on ***Spectators*** for three years. It's about explicit sex and explicit violence, and how we relate to it as entertainment and life, via the metaphor of voyeuristic ghosts. I'll cut to the chase: I think this may be a masterpiece. Hell, even the stuff which I don't like is more interesting than most of the books I love. This is ambitious, audacious, and available in hardback.

Building on the previously excellent *Crave*, Maria Llovet's interests continue here – cautionary tales of technological advancement juxtaposed with human erotic life. ***Artificial*** takes AI romantic companions and puts them in an android body, with our lead chewing over the appeal of her all-too-human human ex versus this machine customised to her exact preference. The fear of the robot getting jealous is real: Ex-Terminator, if you will. Strong, and also – like all of Maria's work – hot.



Skinbreaker brings together Robert Kirkman (*Invincible*, *Walking Dead*) and David Finch (*Batman*, *New Avengers*) to tell a primal story of family in an alien culture. Kirkman keeps the story absolutely mythic in its simplicity – a father who knows his time is ending and a son who doesn't want to admit that – and sets the stage for Finch to transport you. His work is something else – drawn on double-sized boards, the pages are sumptuous, transporting you into this world with uncanny power.

Everything Dead & Dying has Tate Brombal (*Barbalien*, *Batgirl*) and Jacob Phillips (*That Texas Blood*, *Newburn*) exploring a quiet post-apocalypse. A farmer living among the rural ruins of a zombie apocalypse, alongside his husband, daughter and neighbours. All of whom are undead. Life goes on, even when life doesn't. A story about one man's refusal to admit the world has ended. I found this slice of unlife to be disturbing and haunting, which is exactly as it should be.

It starts with birds materializing. It ends with the death of the heavens. ***Closer*** is cosmic horror you can dance to, and a one-off apocalypse romance from Steve Lieber (*The Fix*, *Jimmy Olsen*), Tamra Bonvillain (*Once & Future*) and Kieron Gillen (*The Power Fantasy*, The Writer of This Column). For those who are missing *Phonogram*, this is a trip back to the music-infused dark fantasy of the weirdest parts and, as a one-and-done, an absolute pop single.

Kieron Gillen writes ***The Power Fantasy***.

BITTER ROOT™

DAVID F. WALKER
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THE MOON is FOLLOWING US™

DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON
RILEY ROSSMO
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"A great comic often has amazing art, stellar scripting, a unique premise, or a top notch creative team. THE MOON IS FOLLOWING US #1 has all of the above. It's two creators at the top of their games, delivering a story with human weight in a fantastic setting and delivering an ending that no one saw coming."

—*Adventures in Poor Taste*

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VIKING MOON

In 1003, Leif Erikson established a Viking settlement in Vineland (present day Newfoundland), a strange new world of plenty but populated by an indigenous people and something else...something UNNATURAL. Twenty years after the original expedition ended in disaster, a new attempt to settle this wilderness is made. Ulf and his hardened tribe of Vikings soon discover that the whisper of creatures who are both human and beast are not primitive legend, but death-bringing reality.

VIKINGS versus WEREWOLVES! The real reason the Vikings fled North America! A tale of blood-curdling horror and barbaric adventure from Eisner Award winner JOE PRUETT (VOICES IN MY HEAD, Cable, Domino) and legendary artist MARCELO FRUSIN (Hellblazer, Loveless, KICK-ASS: THE NEW GIRL).

RATED **T+** (TEEN PLUS) COVER A

ZONE